

**Claims:**

1. A tensioning element (1) having:
  - a bearing bracket (2) with a first and second  
5 surface (6, 25),
  - a clamping means (3), which is mounted  
displaceably in the bearing bracket (2) and which  
comprises a clamping piece (4) interacting with  
the first surface (6) and a foot (5), wherein the  
10 clamping piece (4) and the foot (5) are connected  
together by a middle piece (7) and the middle  
piece (7) exhibits a smaller diameter than the  
foot (5) and
  - a spring (8), which interacts with the second  
15 surface (25) and the foot (5).
2. A tensioning element according to claim 1,  
characterised in that the middle piece (7) and the  
20 foot (5) are mounted displaceably in the bearing  
bracket.
3. A tensioning element according to claim 2,  
characterised in that the clamping means (3) consists  
25 of two parts.
4. A tensioning element according to claim 3,  
characterised in that the clamping piece (4) and the  
middle piece (7) constitute the one part and the foot  
30 (5) is the other part.
5. A tensioning element according to claim 3,  
characterised in that the clamping piece (4) is the

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one part and the middle piece (7) and the foot (5) constitute the other part.

- 5 6. A tensioning element according to any one of claims 3-5, characterised in that the connection between the parts is a material and/or frictional connection.
- 10 7. A tensioning element according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the bearing bracket (2) is U-shaped.
- 15 8. A tensioning element according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the bearing bracket (2) comprises a preferably annular recess (23) in the first surface (6).
- 20 9. A tensioning element according to claim 8, characterised in that the clamping piece (4) comprises a preferably annular bulge (24), which interacts with the recess (23).
- 25 10. A tensioning element according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it is part of a chain (13), preferably a chain conveyor for film webs.
- 30 11. A chain conveyor, preferably for film webs, characterised in that it comprises tensioning elements according to any one of claims 1-9.
12. A means (14) for opening and closing the tensioning element (1) according to any one of claims 1-10, characterised in that it comprises two ramps (15, 16),

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wherein the tensioning element (1) is opened with the ramp (15) and closure of the tensioning element (1) is controlled with the ramp (16).

- 5 13. A means according to claim 11, characterised in that the ramps (15, 16) are arranged at an angle to one another of  $< 180^\circ$ , preferably  $< 130^\circ$ , particularly preferably  $< 90^\circ$ .
- 10 14. A means according to either one of claims 12-13, characterised in that the gradient of each of the ramps (15, 16) is different.
- 15 15. A means (19) for opening and closing the tensioning element (1) according to any one of claims 1-10, characterised in that it is a circular disk (20), the axis of rotation (21) of which is offset relative to the axis of rotation (22) of a gear wheel (17), with which a chain (13) is conveyed which comprises the
- 20 tensioning elements (1).
16. A means according to claim 15, characterised in that it is mounted rotatably.
- 25 17. A means according to any one of claims 12-16, characterised in that it is mounted on the same shaft (18) as the gear wheel (17) of the chain (13).
- 30 18. A means according to any one of claims 12-17, characterised in that the axis of rotation (21) and/or the axis of rotation (22) are inclined relative to the vertical.